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ELEKTRA Assassin

—THE LOST YEARS—

AMERICA'S HALLOWEEN CHOICE: KEN WIND

ROCHELLE PARK, N.J.—Plastic masks showing presidential candidate Ken Wind's smiling face were the first choice for trick-or-treaters this past Halloween, a spokesman for Toys И Stuff announced today.

Barb Beam, press agent for the toy and costume manufacturer, addressed a meeting of the National Association of Amusement Products Distributors, calling the Ken Wind mask "the biggest licensing sensation since Star Wars."

"Nobody was ready for this," said Ben Chump, a midwestern toy distributor. "Reorders began pouring in from every store in the region a full week before Halloween," said Chump.

Toys И Stuff is expected to announce a new line of Ken Wind male action figures in time for Christmas.

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CHAPTER SEVEN
VOX POPULI

BLOOD

GOD IT'S--

MEDIC

BLOOD EVERYWHERE

DEAD THEY'RE ALL DEAD

DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF YOU'RE ON A BREAK-- GET UP HERE--

--BRING A MOP--

OH, GOD

PERRY --IT WAS PERRY--

NOT MY JOB, MAN--

--TORE THEM TO PIECES--

READ ME ANY MORE *UNION RULES* AND IT'S SIX WEEKS IN THE *WASTE DISPOSAL* UNIT FOR YOU, CORPORAL. NOW ROLL THAT *FILM*.

S.H.I.E.L.D

THAT'S BETTER...STATUS REPORT TO COLONEL FURY, EMERGENCY PRIORITY, AGENT CHASTITY McBRYDE DICTATING. AGENT PERRY HAS ESCAPED HELICARRIER SECURITY. PERRY HAS BEEN FULLY RECONSTRUCTED BY SHIELD'S *EXTECHOP* DIVISION...

...*EXTECHOP* HAS CLAIMED THAT PERRY POSSESSES "*UNPRECEDENTED DESTRUCTIVE POWER.*" DURING HIS ESCAPE, PERRY TORE THROUGH THE STEEL *DOOR* OF HIS *CELL* WITH HIS BARE *HANDS*--

--AND *DISMEMBERED* SIX SECURITY AGENTS, AS WELL AS THE *DESIGNERS* OF HIS CYBORG BODY, DOCTORS *WRECK* AND *BEAKER*. I ORDERED *EXTECHOP* TO ATTEMPT A *REVIVICATION* OF DR. *BEAKER*...

THIS HAS ALL BEEN A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
REALLY. I'M CONFIDENT THAT WHEN ALL THE *FACTS* ARE IN, YOU'LL SEE THERE'S NO *CAUSE* FOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL *TENSION*...
...I'VE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE EFFORTS HAVE EFFECTED ONLY MOMENTARY SUCCESS.
BEAKER WAS, AFTER ALL, *DECAPITATED*.
THIS BEFORE *BREAKFAST*...
TOO MANY SHOCKS *ALREADY*--WE'RE *FRYING* HIS *CORTEX*--
DOUBLE UP THE *ADRENALIN FLOW* --MIGHT BUY US ANOTHER *MINUTE*--

PERRY, BEAKER. WHAT CAN HE DO?

I'M VERY GLAD YOU ASKED ME THAT QUESTION, CHASTITY.

DESPITE THE PERIL OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS SCANDAL--

--WHICH I'M SURE CAN BE AVOIDED--

--OVERALL THIS WHOLE EPISODE WILL ONLY BENEFIT THE AGENCY.

WE'VE CREATED A SUPERMAN HERE-- WHATEVER HIS EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.

WE

...STATUS REPORT, CONTINUED. DR. BEAKER'S DEATH LEAVES US WITH LITTLE INFORMATION AS TO PERRY'S EXACT CAPABILITIES. UNTIL THE BANKS HAVE YIELDED THE PERTINENT DATA--I'M TOLD THAT MUCH OF IT HAS BEEN EITHER ERASED OR MISFILED...

--WE MUST PROCEED IN OUR ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND PERRY BEFORE HE REACHES ANY POPULATED AREA. I AM JOINING THE HELICOPTER SQUAD NOW IN PURSUIT OF PERRY.

COPTERS NOW IN FLIGHT ARE TO MONITOR PERRY, AND TAKE NO ACTION WITHOUT MY ORDER.

STEP ON IT, MEN. YOU'RE NINETY SECONDS LATE.

OVERTIME

...PROMISED ME THE AFTERNOON SHIFT...

...CHRIST. SUNS JUST RISING...

SHIT, MAN-- DOUBLE OVERTIME...

WHAT *GENE POOL* THEY *GROW* YOU IN, CHUCK?

MY ORIGIN IS UNIMPORTANT, PERRY.

YOU ARE ALL THAT MATTERS.

MAKES ME ALL *TINGLY* WHEN YOU *SAY* THAT, CHUCK.

FLAPFLAPFLAPELAP

FLAP-FLAP

COPTERS ARE HANGING *BACK*. BET *CHASTITY'S* ON HER WAY.

CHASTITY, GET MY HANDS ON *HER* AND I'M A HAPPY MAN...

FLAPFLAP FLAP

AIDING PERRY IN HIS ESCAPE IS A *DWARF*, PRODUCED BY OUR *CLONING* DIVISION, WHICH IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE DWARF'S *INTELLIGENCE* OR *MOTOR SKILLS*.

THE CLONING DIVISION HAS YET TO PULL THE DWARF'S *CODE*--I'D SUGGEST THEIR *RECORDS DEPARTMENT* SHOULD BE GIVEN A FULL RANGE OF *COMPETENCE TESTS*--

--EXCUSE ME, COLONEL--

--WE'RE ALMOST WITHIN *FIRING* RANGE.

COPTERS *ONE* AND *TWO*--HOLD YOUR *POSITION*.

ARMOR PIERCING BULLETS, SERGEANT--ON MY *ORDER*--

--FIRE!

IT'S HER, CHUCK-- CHASTITY-- --TAKE ME TO HER--

AS YOU COMMAND.

BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA

NO GOOD BULLETS DON'T PENETRATE

PLATING UP-- --WE'LL USE THE CLIFF--

--GRIND HIM TO POWDER--

PLATING UP.

HE'S TURNING

CAN'T SEE HIM-- WHERE--

OH, CHRIST, CHASTITY, HE'S ON YOU-- --ON YOUR COPTER--

HOLY... HIS HAND...

SSSSSSSS

HEAT'S ON, CHAS.

SOMETHING PUNCTURED THE FUEL LINES--

HIS HAND IT'S RED HOT

POOMM

FUEL LINES IT--

THE CLIFF WE--

FUEL'S UP-- --ABANDON SHIP--

TOO LATE--

CHRIST, TOO LATE

TOO LATE, WE'RE FINISHED--

IT'S THE PRESIDENT, SIR. IT'S ABOUT KEN WIND.

COPTER THREE DOWN, COLONEL--

COPTERS ONE AND TWO--HOLD POSITION--

CHASTITY --DO YOU COPY?

...I COPY, COLONEL FURY. HEAVY CASUALTIES, SIR.

I CAN'T SEE PERRY.

THAT FIRE'S SPREADING, CHASTITY. GET SOME DISTANCE.

COPTER ONE --GET ME A VISUAL--

IMPOSSIBLE, COLONEL-- FLAMES TOO THICK--

GET OUT OF THERE, CHASTITY--

CHASTITY OVER HERE

OVER HERE GOD MARGOLIS CUT IN TWO GOD

--DIRECT ORDER, CHASTITY--

--GET OUT OF THERE--

AND SPENSER, SHE'S GOD

MEKKELSON, YOU SHIT.

YOU CANDY ASS BROWN NOSING SHIT.

MEKKELSON-- GET DOWN--

GET OUT OF THE WAY--

CHASTITY --DO YOU COPY--

SPENSER'S ALL GOD

THINK I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, MEKKELSON?

IN THE COMMISSARY.

FILED A REPORT ON ME, YOU SHIT.

GRAB AN EXTRA PIECE OF KEY LIME PIE AND YOU FILE A REPORT.

GOD

CHASTITY-- GET OUT OF--

BAM

THERE-- I SEE HER, COLONEL--

--SHE'S FIRING ON PERRY--

COPTER ONE --PICK HER UP.

--COPTER TWO-- FIX FIREBOMBS--

--TARGET PERRY--

CHAS. CHAS. SWEETEST PIECE IN THE AGENCY.

I NEED YOU, HONEY.

TOW LINES ON--

WE GOT HER--

KLATCH!

--SHE'S UP--

GIVE ME SCORCHED EARTH.

S.H.I.E.L.D

STATUS REPORT, 1800 HOURS. AIR AND GROUND SEARCH TEAMS HAVE FOUND NO SIGN OF PERRY. WE MUST ASSUME PERRY SURVIVED THE BOMBING. SHIELD LOSSES FROM THE ENCOUNTER STAND AT FOUR--

--MY ENTIRE CREW. I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY FAILURE TO KEEP THEM ALIVE, AND SUBMIT MYSELF FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION ...YES, SIR, I UNDERSTAND...YES, SIR, MY REPORT...

IT IS CLEAR THAT PERRY IS NOT OPERATING ALONE. REVIEWING RECENT EVENTS HERE AND AT THE SHIELD **LAND BASE** AT **SAN CONCEPCION**, I BELIEVE THAT **PERRY** IS INVOLVED IN AN ORGANIZED **CONSPIRACY.**

WHILE IT REMAINS UNKNOWN WHAT GROUP OR GOVERNMENT HAS **SPONSORED** THE CONSPIRACY, SPECIAL AGENT **JOHN GARRETT** IS CLEARLY ONE OF PERRY'S **COLLABORATORS**--

--AS IS **THIS** UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN, THE **ASSASSIN** OF SOUTH AMERICAN PRESIDENTE **CARLOS HUEVOS**, AND OF UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR **REICH.**

GARRETT HAS CLAIMED THAT HE IS UNDER **PSYCHIC DOMINATION** BY THE WOMAN, AND THAT SHE KILLED **REICH** BECAUSE SHE BELIEVED HIM TO BE POSSESSED BY A **DEMON.**

HER NEXT TARGET--AND PRESUMABLY, THAT OF **GARRETT** AND **PERRY** --IS DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KEN WIND.** THE LATEST POLLS INDICATE THAT WIND WILL **DEFEAT** THE INCUMBENT IN TOMORROW'S ELECTION.

CAN'T PUT **ME** ON HOLD, FURY, I'M THE **PRESIDENT.**
ANOTHER **FIVE SECONDS** AND THE MISSILES WOULD'VE **FLOWN.**
I COULD **DO** IT.
I'VE GOT THE **BOX.** AND I'VE GOT THE **GUTS.**
DAMN **STRAIGHT.**
DAMN STRAIGHT.

...SOVIET ATTACK? WHO **NEEDS** ONE?
KEN WIND WOULD NEED ONE.
KEN WIND'S GOT NO **GUTS.**
KEN WIND GETS **ELECTED**--AND I'LL SHOW YOU **GUTS.**
BET YOUR **ASS.**
MOSCOW HERE WE **COME.**

THE COFFEE SPURTS STUPIDLY INTO THE MACHINE, BREAKING THE LONELY SILENCE

PITS

SPUTTER

SILENCE

IN THE CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS OF KEN WIND.

FROM THE QUICK BLOW TO THE NECK OF A SEC-RETARY WHO WIELDED A LETTER OPENER EXPERTLY THOUGH TOO LATE--

--TO THE SWEET SUFFOCATION OF A MEDIA CONSULTANT WHO ATTEMPTED HAND HOLDS NO AMERICAN COULD KNOW--

--SILENCE--

--AS I CLOSED THE JUGULAR OF THIS FAT ONE--HE LOOKED RIDICULOUS USING TAI CHI--

--BUT USED IT WELL, FOR A MOMENT...

WIND

...NINJA ALL OF THEM, SERVANTS TO THE BEAST

THE COFFEE GURGLES ITS LAST IN-TO THE POT--

--TWO PAIRS OF FEET APPROACH--

--THE LAST TWO...

WIND

--MOVES INTO POSITION--

--NO TIME TO PREPARE--

--THE SILENT SHOUT--

CLUMSY ATTACK-- EASY TO DODGE--

--NO--

--HE TRICKS ME--

RIDE IT

HE HAS

THREE MOVES

THREE WAYS

TO KILL ME

SPINNING KICK

A FINE KICK

BUT

THE WRONG KICK

HIS HEART IS WARM AND STRONG.

I LET HIM SEE IT.

CREAM

HE CURSES, THEN GURGLES, LIKE THE COFFEE.

THE STENCH MAKES THE MILK EASY TO FIND...

S.H.I.E.L.D

...AGENT CHASTITY McBRYDE, DICTATING.

OUR FIRST TARGET AT TOMORROW'S ***RALLY*** FOR ***KEN WIND*** IS THIS ***WOMAN.*** BE AWARE THAT SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED ***INHUMAN*** COMBAT ABILITY--AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF ***STRATEGY***--AS WELL AS PARANORMAL ***PSYCHIC*** POWERS.

SHOOT TO KILL.

YOU EACH WEAR DEVICES THAT WILL DETECT THE TYPE OF ***ELECTRONIC EMISSION*** GENERATED BY ***CYBORG*** CIRCUITRY. THESE WILL ***ALERT*** YOU TO THE PROXIMITY OF ***GARRETT*** AND ***PERRY.***

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE ***JOHN GARRETT.*** HIS SKILLS ARE THOSE OF A FIRST RATE ***FIELD*** AGENT. HIS ARTIFICIAL ***LIMBS*** ARE EXTREMELY ***POWERFUL***--AND CAN TAKE A LOT OF ***PUNISHMENT.*** GO FOR A ***HEAD WOUND.***

MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL IS ***PERRY.*** DO NOT TRY TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE HIM. ***EXTECHOP*** HAS PROVIDED US WITH A PARTIAL BREAKDOWN OF HIS CAPABILITIES...

...PERRY'S ENTIRE *SKELETAL* AND *NERVOUS* SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH STRESS-RESISTANT *PLASTICS* AND NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE *ALLOYS.*

HE IS *FIREPROOF, BULLETPROOF,* AND *SHOCKPROOF.*

HE NEITHER *BREATHES* NOR *EATS.*

HOUSED IN HIS *CHEST*--ROUGHLY WHERE HIS *HEART* WOULD BE--IS A MINIATURIZED *SOLAR GENERATOR* POWERFUL ENOUGH TO LIGHT A CITY *BLOCK.* THIS GIVES HIM SUPERHUMAN *STRENGTH*, AND FEEDS *LASER* WEAPONRY CONCEALED IN HIS *SKULL* AND *FOREARMS.*

HIS SKULL IS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH *RADAR, SONAR,* AND *INFRARED* SENSORS.

HIS DETACHABLE *TOES* CONTAIN LETHAL *NERVE GAS.* HE CAN GENERATE EXTREME *HEAT* FROM HIS *HANDS.*

THE ACCIDENTAL *ERASURE* OF ONE HALF OF PERRY'S *FILE* LIMITS OUR KNOWLEDGE BEYOND THIS--BUT EXISTING *BLUEPRINTS* INDICATE THAT HE MAY BE CAPABLE OF SPRAYING *ACID* FROM HIS *EYES* AND *GENITALIA.*

YOU MUST IN NO WAY REGARD PERRY AS *HUMAN.* INDEED, BUT FOR A PORTION OF LIVING *BRAIN*, HE IS COMPLETELY THE CREATION OF *EXTECHOP* TECHNOLOGY.

HE IS ALSO COMPLETELY *INSANE.*

...PROUD COALITION OF ALL COLORS, ALL CREEDS...

...ALL PEOPLE WITH CONSCIENCE --AND COURAGE TO BUILD A NEW AMERICA...

...FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA...

KEN WIND HAS THE ELECTION IN THE BAG.

HE'S ALSO GOT A DEVIL ON HIS ASS.

HE'S THE LUCKY ONE.

ME, SHE'S GOT BY THE BALLS.

CALL ME GARRETT. A WHILE BACK, I WAS AN AGENT OF SHIELD.

NOW I'M A WANTED MAN--AND A SLAVE TO A NINJA ASSASSIN.

SHE'S IN THE OTHER ROOM.

I PROPPED THE CHAIR AND NAILED THE DOOR SHUT-- ON ORDERS FROM HER.

I DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO ASK HER WHY...

ALREADY THE MANY MADDENING VOICES CALL TO ME...

...CARRIED ON CHOKING SMOKE--

--FROM THE MILK.

THE MILK OF THE BEAST.

ALREADY MY REASON SLIPS TOWARD THE ABYSS--

--STILL I MUST TASTE IT--

--TO KNOW MY ENEMY--

--TO KNOW HIS PLAN--

--THERE--

--FAR BELOW THE WORLD OF LIGHT AND LIFE--

--THERE--A MONSTER HOLDS A TORCH--

--A MAN I KILLED-- WALKS--

--THE VOICES RISE, CACKLING-- IGNORE THEM--

--THE SNAKES--

HEAR THE SNAKES, PERRY. THEY CHEER FOR YOU.

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

--AND NOW THEY STOP--

--ON GOAT'S LEGS IT LUMBERS FORWARD--

--THEY SEE IT--

BEHOLD THE LORD.

THE JACKAL'S SON.

THE BEAST.

YEAH. HEY. GREAT.

LIKE IN ALIEN.

--A RUSH OF VULTURE'S BREATH--

--PLASTIC SKIN PULLS TIGHT--

--A STEEL JAWBONE FLEXES--

THE BEAST IS POWER.

NMMGG.

THE BEAST IS MAGIC.

THE BEAST WILL MAKE YOU CLEAN.

DO NOT TEST HIS STRENGTH.

RELISH IN HIS PRESENCE.

REJOICE

HE FAVORS YOU

WITH HIS MOTHER'S MILK

DRINK DEEP

HE SHARES WITH YOU

HIS HOLY DREAM

In the BEGINNING
There was DARKNESS
Endless COLD
Then came the
CORRUPTION
The POISON
LIGHT
LIFE
FLESH

Now it CRAWLS ACROSS THE WORLD

FILTHY LOUD

INTERRUPTING THE DARKNESS

I AM THE HEART of the DARKNESS OLDER THAN LIGHT GIVEN FLESH TO END FLESH ALL FLESH

THROUGH FLESH I BUILT THE TOOL

of the DARKNESS

The TOOL

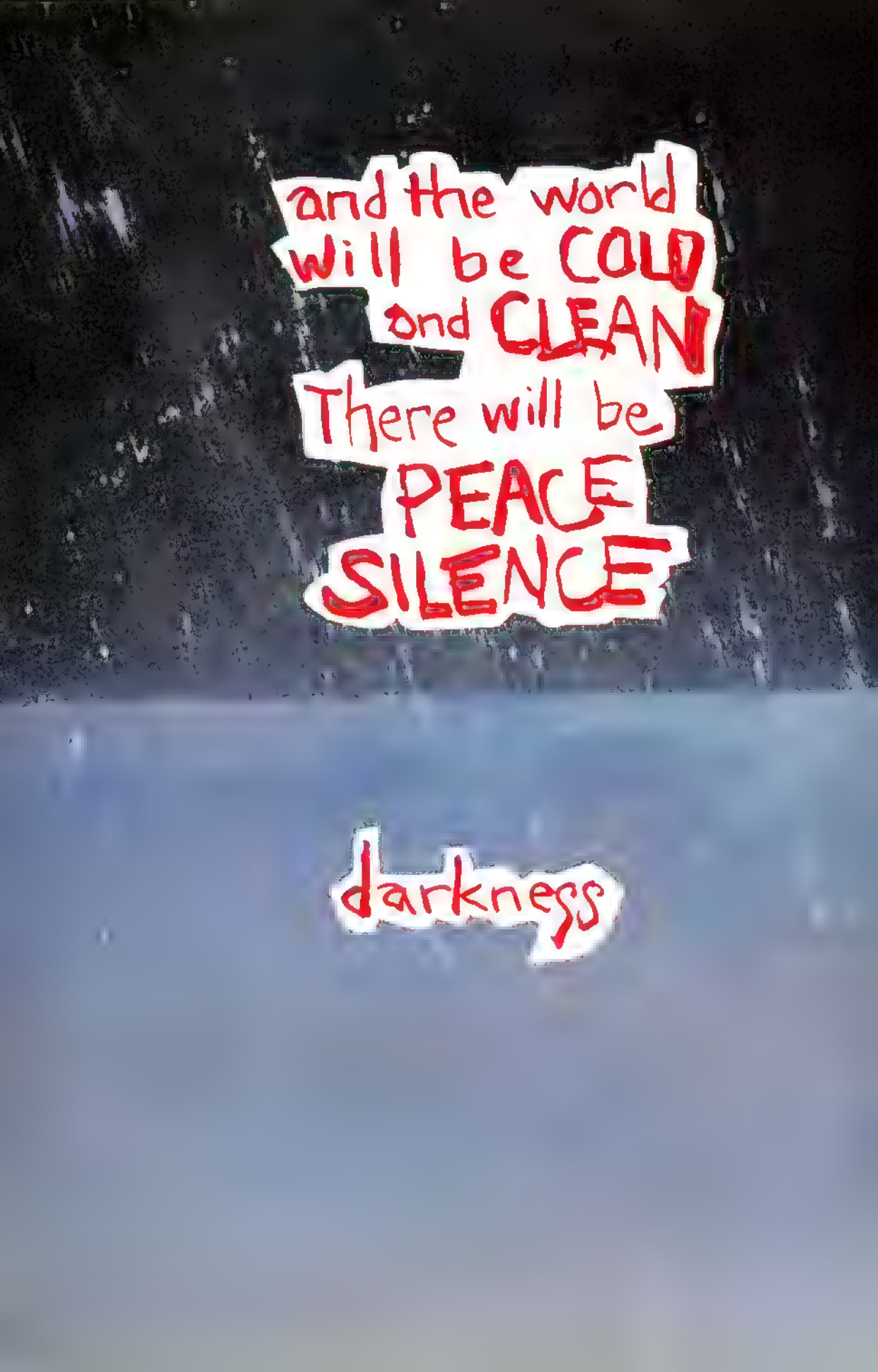
of the DARKNESS

THE TOOL of the DARKNESS

The TOOL
that will break
the filthy CHAIN
of light and
Noise and
Life and
flesh

and flesh
All flesh
will BURN
and SCREAM
and DIE

and DIE
and DIE
and DIE


and the world
will be COLD
and CLEAN
There will be
PEACE
SILENCE
darkness

DARKNESS
LORD
MY DEAR LORD
I DIDN'T KNOW
I DIDN'T KNOW
I DIDN'T KNOW
IF I COULD GO THROUGH WITH IT
LORD
SHE BROKE THROUGH THE DOOR
SHE
I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD GO THROUGH WITH IT
WITH KILLING KEN WIND
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE
IN THIS ROOM
DRESSING LIKE ICE CREAM MAN
DIDN'T KNOW
WHY
I DIDN'T THOUGHT SHE WAS OUT FOR REVENGE
KNOW
SHE BROKE THROUGH THE DOOR
REACHED OUT WITH HER HAND
GRABBED MY FACE
PLAYED IT FOR ME LIKE A GOD DAMN
GOD DAMN
MOCKE'S ICE CREAM
KEN WIND
WIN WITH WIND

LIKE A GOD DAMN MOVIE

I SAW IT

I SAW IT

KEN WIND'S

KEN WIND'S FIRST ACT AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO LAUNCH A FULL NUCLEAR STRIKE ON SOVIET RUSSIA

KEN RE'S REAM WIND

FULL NUCLEAR STRIKE

MUTUALLY

MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION

THE RUSSIANS WILL HAVE TIME TO STRIKE BACK

END OF THE

END OF THE WORLD

UNLESS WE

IT'LL BE THE END OF THE WORLD

UNLESS WE KILL KEN WIND

ELEKTRA SHE

BLOW THAT BASTARD'S HEAD OFF

MY DEAR LORD

ELEKTRA

SHE'S CRAZY

BUT SHE'S RIGHT

"...WITH TWENTY PER CENT OF THE VOTE IN, WE PREDICT THAT KEN WIND IS THE WINNER IN NEW YORK STATE..."

NEW YORK

EAST COAST FAGGOTS.

NO GUTS.

...CONTINUING WHAT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A CLEAN SWEEP OF NEW ENGLAND...

...PENNSYLVANIA ...IT'S WIND...

...RECORD TURNOUT...

...DELAWARE...

DELAWARE.

MY ASS.

MOSCOW HERE WE COME.

NOW HONEY...

...MIDWEST RETURNS ARE COMING IN...

I'LL DO IT. I'VE GOT THE GUTS.

I'M THE PRESIDENT.

YES, HONEY.

DAMN STRAIGHT.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE THAT BOX AWAY FROM HIM.

WHY BOTHER...

GUTS

"MICHIGAN...IT'S LOOKING LIKE A LANDSLIDE, FOLKS..."

MICH.

THROUGH FLESH I BUILT the TOOL of the DARKNESS

END OF THE MUTUALLY ASSURED END

BUTTER PECAN CINNAMON RAISIN

LEMON WHIP STRAWBERRY DAQUIRI

CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHIP

GETTING A SIGNAL. IT'S WEAK...

THERE.

THERE.

SHIELD AGENTS.

AND OVER THERE --BY THE BANDSTAND--

--NINJA.

END OF THE

END OF THE

VANILLA FUDGE

SON OF A

GOD DAMN WORLD

GARRETT--

SON OF A

BITCH

GARRETT--

--GARRETT. YOU MUST BE CALM.

YOU MUST BE SURE.

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES.

THINK, GARRETT.

REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE...

BANANA CUSTARD.

THE RALLY, GARRETT.

THE KEN WIND VICTORY RALLY.

YOU ARE IN THE CROWD.

I AM BEHIND IT.

POOR GARRETT. HE WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS.

HE HAS FALLEN INTO A WORLD-- A LIVING HELL HE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND.

MY WORLD.

NOW A CHEER RISES, LIKE A WAVE. WIND IS TAKING EVERY STATE.

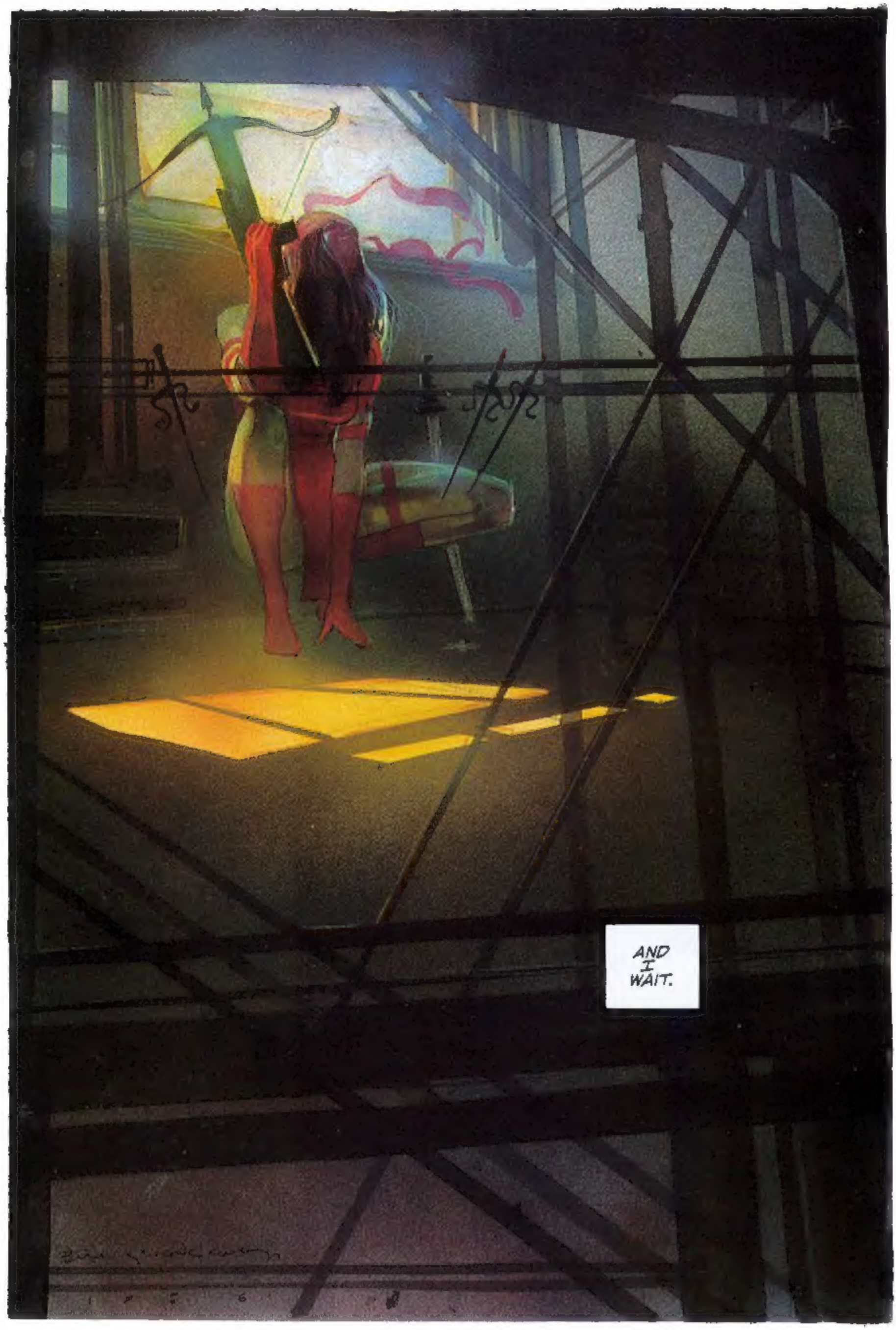
SOON, HE WILL APPEAR.

ANOTHER CHEER-- THEY LEAP TO THEIR FEET. THEY JUMP AND PUSH FORWARD. THEY DROP SOFT DRINKS AND BAGS OF SALTED NUTS--

--AND CRY WITH LOVE FOR THEIR KING.

CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
REAGAN
WINS

SOUTH DAKOTA
WYOMING
NEBRAS
ILLINOIS
IND.
OHIO
NEW YORK
UTAH
COLORADO
MISSOURI
W. VA.
MD.
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROL
ARK.
SOUTH CAROLINA


AND
I
WAIT.